



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES
AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

September 2, 1999

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Public Comments on the Preliminary Human Health and Environmental Fate and Effects Risk Assessment(s) for the Organophosphate Methyl Parathion

FROM: Dennis R. Deziel, Chemical Review Manager
Special Review and Reregistration Division
Office of Pesticide Programs

TO: OPP Public Docket for Methyl Parathion
Docket # 34161

The attached documents address public comments that were received in response to EPA's Notice of Availability (63 FR No. 243,70126-70127; December 18, 1998) of the preliminary risk assessment for the organophosphate chemical methyl parathion.

Twenty-three comments were received during the open public comment period. Of these, 11 comments specific to methyl parathion were received from the registrant, Cheminova, as well as the Consumer's Union, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), World Wildlife Fund, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Farm Worker Justice Fund, Migrant Farm Worker Justice Project, Washington Professional Beekeepers Association, Bee Natural Honey Company, Harvey's Honey, and two private citizens. Additional comments have been received since the public comment period closed from the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Pennsylvania State University, Michigan State University, Cornell University, Washington State University, and Crop Management Strategies, Incorporated. Revisions and refinements to the risk assessment are based primarily on a review of additional data submitted by Cheminova, and data available from USDA (PDP data) and FDA.

Since the close of the public docket in February 1999, refinements have been made to both the Human Health and Ecological risk assessments for methyl parathion – endpoints have been revised and the risk assessments have been refined significantly. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Agreement between manufacturers of methyl parathion and EPA was signed August 2, 1999, which included significant voluntary use cancellations and interim worker risk mitigation measures. For further details on how these studies and refinements impacted the risk assessments, refer to the revised human health and ecological risk assessments that are now available in the Public Docket and on the Agency's website: www.epa.gov/pesticides.